

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY NOTICE
ANNOUNCING THE RELEASE OF A
COMPETITIVE GRANT SOLICITATION AND APPLICATION PACKAGE
FOR
ADVANCED BIOSYNTHETIC TRANSPORTATION FUEL PRODUCTION

PUBLIC INTEREST ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAM – TRANSPORTATION
SUBJECT AREA/
ALTERNATIVE AND RENEWABLE VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
PON-08-008

Release Date: January 30, 2009

Proposal Due Date: March 6, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Purpose:

This is a competitive grant solicitation sponsored by the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Transportation Program to accelerate research, development and demonstration (RD&D) of advanced technologies to produce transportation fuels via direct biosynthetic routes.

This solicitation is targeted for RD&D to improve and advance direct biosynthetic technologies that demonstrate potential to supply transportation fuels in and for California. Only those proposals involving direct biosynthetic fuel production processes, *i.e.*, fuels being generated by biological organisms and requiring limited further processing, that meet the eligibility requirements, and that pass the minimum technical score, will be considered for funding.

California continues its pursuit of both conventional and unconventional fuel sources to meet its future transportation energy needs. Particular emphasis is placed on renewable sources of energy that can substitute for fossil fuels and contribute to carbon emission-reduction goals. The purposes and benefits associated with this targeted research are to:

- advance the commercial availability of renewable transportation fuels;

- expand the state's portfolio of fossil-free transportation fuel options;
- develop new fuel sources with lower net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and with potential to help stabilize atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations;
- enhance the supply and affordability of future transportation fuel choices for California consumers;
- create new in-state fuel production options along with their associated economic development and employment opportunities; and

Eligible Projects:

Promising biosynthetic fuel production technologies that utilize algae, bacteria or other microorganisms in processes that deliver marketable fuel products directly, with minimal downstream conversion, are the target of this solicitation. Those projects that can demonstrate the highest degrees of development, nearest readiness for commercial introduction, the least need for natural resource impact mitigation, the greatest California applicability, and that make the most effective use of State funds will score highest. Proposals submitted in response to this grant solicitation will be evaluated and one or more projects selected for funding, based on each project's:

- technical merit and feasibility.
- likelihood of achieving competitive production costs.
- estimated net energy balance and energy yield.
- estimated GHG emission benefits.
- relevance and applicability to California conditions.
- organizational capabilities, project participants, and co-funding.
- likelihood of achieving Energy Commission sustainability goals.

Eligible Applicants:

This is a competitive solicitation seeking technology developers who have demonstrated expertise and experience with the development of biosynthetic fuel processes. To be eligible, applicants must present teams with demonstrated commercialization capabilities (*i.e.*, bringing complex systems/products to market). Both private and public entities may apply under this solicitation.

California business entities as well as non-California business entities conducting intrastate business in California are required to register and be in good standing with the California Secretary of State to enter into Agreements with the Energy Commission. If not currently registered with the California Secretary of State, Applicants are encouraged to contact the Secretary of State's Office as soon as possible to avoid potential delays in beginning the proposed project (should their applications be successful). For more information, contact the Secretary of State's Office via its website at www.sos.ca.gov.

Funding Information:

A total of up to **\$1.65 million** is available in PIER project funding through this solicitation. The Energy Commission anticipates selecting two to three projects to fund with grants.

Organizations may submit multiple proposals. Nevertheless, each proposal must be for a distinct, separate project and must be submitted separately, adhering to all requirements contained in this solicitation.

This solicitation encourages match funding that should be appropriate and consistent with the expected level of public versus private benefits accrued from the project. In general, the more private benefits accrued the greater match share percentage that should be contributed towards the project. The Energy Commission will evaluate and score the level of match share funding in accordance with the Scoring Criteria in Attachment A.

Schedule of Proposal and Award Process:

Release of Program Opportunity Notice	January 30, 2009
Pre-Proposal Workshop Hearing Room A California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth St, Sacramento, CA 95814	February 9, 2009 See Instruction of February 9th Public Participation in the Application Package
Deadline to Submit Questions	February 9, 2009
Post Questions and Answers to Website	February 20th, 2009
Deadline to Submit Proposals	March 6, 2009 4:00 p.m.
Post Notice of Proposed Awards	<i>Estimated March 27, 2009</i>
Approval of Awards at Energy Commission Business Meeting	<i>Estimated June 2009</i>

Please see the full Application Package for more information.

Availability of Solicitation Documents and Information:

This solicitation and all supporting documents and forms can be found at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html> under "Current Solicitations." Interested parties may also register on the electronic mailing list on this webpage to receive notifications of any changes to this solicitation.

For those parties without Internet access, copies of solicitation documents and information can be obtained by contacting:

Sandra Cushman
Administrative Assistant
Energy Systems Research Office
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-43
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: (916) 651-9381
Email: scushman@energy.state.ca.us

In addition, you may request to be added to the mailing notification list to receive changes made to this solicitation.